

Summary

Main Features

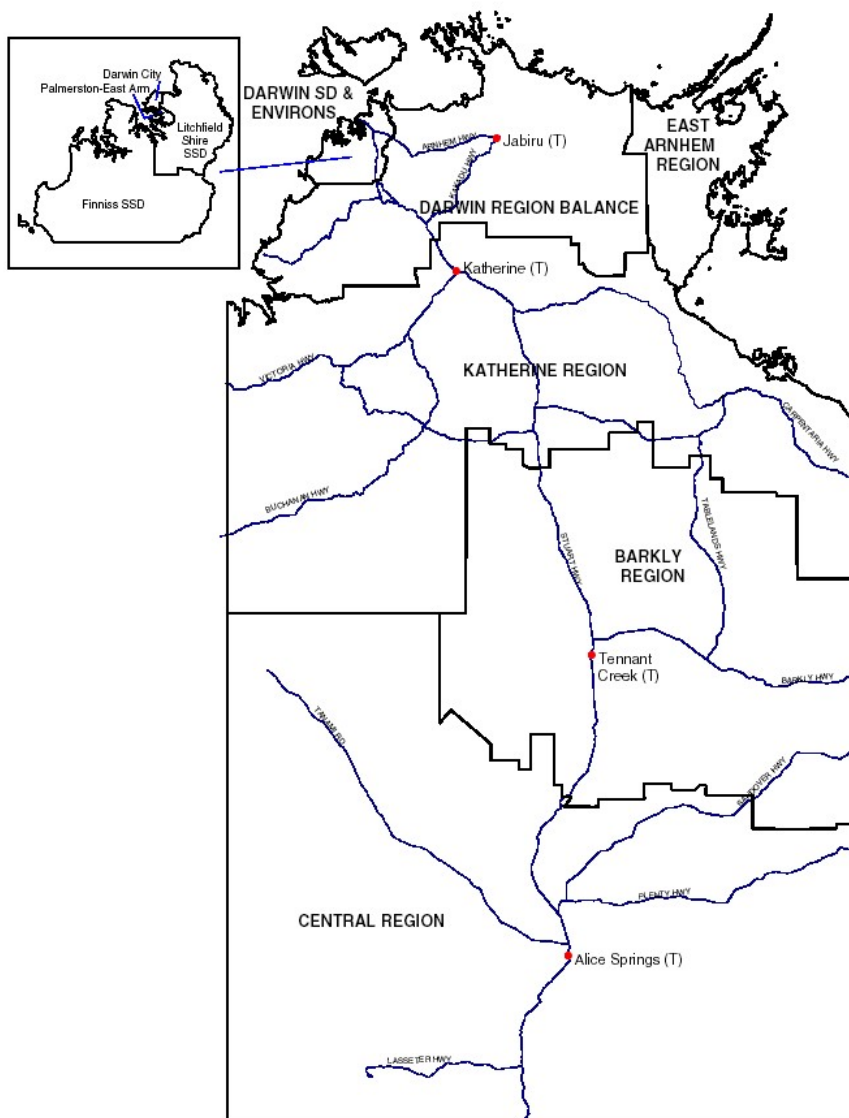
INTRODUCTION

Regional Statistics, Northern Territory 2004 presents a statistical summary of key social and economic information for the Northern Territory (NT) as a whole and for the NT Government's six administrative regions. It contains current and historical data drawn from both the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and non-ABS sources to give users an overview of the social, economic and population characteristics of the NT and each administrative region, including how the regions have contributed to the Territory's economy over time.

This edition includes new data from the Department of Veterans' Affairs and more extensive Australian Taxation Office data, as well as local government finance data for the NT's Community Government Councils and Incorporated Associations. In addition, a feature article provides a brief history of the Adelaide to Darwin railway which was completed in 2004.

The NT Government's six administrative regions (illustrated below) consist of aggregations of Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) which are part of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). All data in this publication are presented according to the 2002 version of the ASGC unless otherwise indicated.

NT ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS



1.1 NORTHERN TERRITORY BY REGIONS, SUMMARY

	Unit	Darwin SD and Environs	Darwin Region Balance	East Arnhem Region	Katherine Region	Barkly Region	Central Region	Northern Territory
Area	sq km	10,356	134,466	40,376	337,363	283,606	546,046	1,352,212
Population								
Estimated resident population at 30 June 2003p	no.	109,803	12,819	13,975	17,090	5,855	38,809	198,351
Annual growth rate 1998 to 2003(a)	%	1.3	0.4	0.9	-0.1	-1.4	0.8	0.9
Age range of population, 30 June 2002								
0-4 years	no.	8,805	1,471	1,577	1,772	602	3,420	17,647
5-14 years	no.	16,451	2,753	2,898	3,326	1,116	6,732	33,276
15-44 years	no.	55,113	6,449	6,944	8,585	2,877	19,635	99,603
45-64 years	no.	24,151	1,794	2,291	2,938	1,076	7,483	39,733
65 years and over	no.	4,728	337	237	668	200	1,584	7,754
Total	no.	109,248	12,804	13,947	17,289	5,871	38,854	198,013
Median age, June 2002	years	31.3	23.4	25.9	26.9	26.1	28.6	28.9
Births, 2002	no.	1,817	319	305	418	128	730	3,724
Deaths, 2002	no.	379	88	53	102	49	215	911
Indigenous population, Census 2001								
Age range of population								
0-4 years	no.	1,231	1,076	986	867	377	1,398	5,939
5-14 years	no.	2,594	2,270	1,816	1,850	810	2,972	12,314
15-44 years	no.	4,905	4,396	4,102	3,756	1,546	6,501	25,261
45-64 years	no.	1,191	917	874	811	386	1,608	5,798
65 years and over	no.	227	205	162	237	100	530	1,473
Total	no.	10,148	8,864	7,940	7,521	3,219	13,009	50,785
Labour force, DEWR(b), December quarter 2003								
Unemployed persons	no.	1,989	493	390	533	144	1,358	4,907
Unemployment rate	%	3.1	12.1	7.8	6.7	6.4	7.0	4.8
Persons in the labour force	no.	63,294	4,079	5,025	8,001	2,258	19,344	102,001
Education								
Student enrolments, government schools, August 2003	no.	17,703	1,730	3,005	3,744	1,183	5,191	32,556
Student enrolments, non-government schools, August 2003	no.	4,924	704	99	294	-	2,752	8,773
Higher education enrolments, 2003	no.	1,500	3	15	55	12	126	1,711
Vocational education and training enrolments, 2002	no.	9,350	3,646	1,580	2,511	715	6,693	26,706
Income								
Wage and salary earners, 2000-01	no.	46,633	2,112	3,692	4,718	1,859	14,492	76,078
Average wage and salary income, 2000-01	\$	35,748	34,321	42,204	33,330	33,950	33,352	35,473
Newstart Allowance(b) clients, June 2002	no.	4,826	2,190	1,473	1,846	452	3,793	14,581
Law and public safety								
Sexual assault and related offences, 2003	no.	221	21	14	27	12	62	357
Unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter, 2003	no.	2,752	291	227	301	173	502	4,246
Traffic infringement notices, 2003	no.	36,187	255	297	869	158	2,319	40,085
Building approvals, 2002-03(c)								
New houses	no.	325	35	30	35	11	78	514
Value of new houses	\$m	64.8	5.8	6.5	6.9	1.9	12.3	98.2
New other residential building	no.	360	4	13	2	-	49	428
Value of new other residential building	\$m	57.4	0.7	2.3	0.3	-	6.2	67
Value of alteration/addition to residential building	\$m	17.9	0.1	1.6	2.6	0.1	6.1	28.4
Value of non-residential building	\$m	115.4	0.5	0.9	9.3	1.4	23.9	151.3
Value of total building	\$m	255.5	7.1	11.2	19.2	3.4	48.5	344.9

(a) Average annual growth rate.

(b) See Glossary.

(c) Components may not add to totals due to rounding.

POPULATION

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

The estimated resident population in the Northern Territory at June 2003 was 198,351 with an average annual growth rate of 0.9% for the five years to June 2003. Population growth over the five years to June 2003 was unevenly spread across the NT, with a decrease in the populations of the Katherine and Barkly regions offsetting the increase in the populations of the other four regions. At 30 June 2003 more than half of the NT population lived in Darwin SD and Environs (55.4%) with 34.5% of the total NT population residing in Darwin City SSD. Darwin SD and Environs had an average annual growth rate of 1.3% for the five years to June 2003, with Palmerston-East Arm SSD contributing significantly with an average annual growth rate of 6.4% over this period. The major regional centres of Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek accounted for 19.1% of the NT population at June 2003.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT INDIGENOUS POPULATION

The experimental estimated resident Indigenous population in the NT at June 2001 was 56,875, representing around 29% of the NT population, compared with around 2% nationally. Darwin Region Balance was estimated to have the highest proportion of Indigenous persons at 30 June 2001 (77.8%), while Darwin SD and Environs had the lowest (10.5%). More than nine out of every 10 people were estimated to be Indigenous in the SLAs of Bathurst-Melville, West Arnhem, East Arnhem - Bal and Tennant Creek - Bal. In contrast, more than nine out of every 10 people in Litchfield Shire SSD and Nhulunbuy SLA were estimated to be non-Indigenous.

AGE AND SEX STRUCTURE

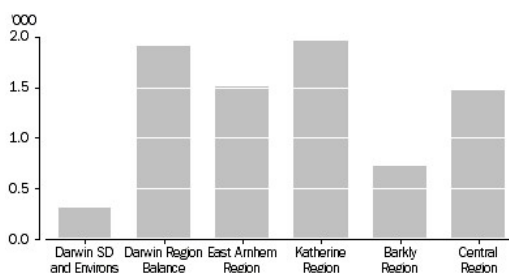
Males continued to significantly outnumber females in the NT, with 111 males for every 100 females at 30 June 2003, compared to 99 males for every 100 females nationally. At 30 June 2002 males outnumbered females in every region, ranging from 112 males per 100 females in Darwin SD and Environs to 105 males per 100 females in Central Region. Females outnumbered males only in the 5-14 year age group in Barkly Region (50.8% female) and in the 65 years and over age group in Darwin Region Balance (55.5% female), East Arnhem Region (54.0% female) and Central Region (52.3% female).

EMPLOYMENT

CDEP

The Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) scheme, which until 2004 was administered by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS), provides much of the Indigenous employment in the Territory. Under the scheme, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people voluntarily forego their individual entitlement to unemployment benefits and take part in community development initiatives in return for wages equivalent to their foregone benefit. Participants are considered to be employed and so the program has a significant influence on NT labour force estimates. At December 2003 there were 7,859 CDEP participants in the NT, a similar number to that at the same time a year before (7,801). Katherine Region and Darwin Region Balance had the highest numbers of participants employed under the CDEP scheme at December 2003 (1,962 and 1,897 respectively) while Darwin SD and Environs had the smallest number of participants (314).

CDEP Participants—December 2003



Source: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services.

PRICES, INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Between March quarter 2003 and March quarter 2004 the Consumer Price Index for Darwin rose 1.1% compared to a rise of 2.0% for the weighted average of the eight capital cities. The greatest increases for Darwin were recorded for health (up 7.2%), alcohol and tobacco (up 4.2%) and education (up 3.5%). The indexes for transportation and recreation decreased over the same period by 3.2% and 4.1% respectively.

INCOME

In 2000-01 the average net tax paid by individual taxpayers in the NT was \$8,254. East Arnhem Region recorded both the highest average taxable income (\$47,081) and average net tax paid by individual taxpayers (\$11,438). Barkly Region had both the lowest average taxable income (\$36,437) and the lowest average net tax paid by individual taxpayers (\$7,247). The SLA of Groote Eylandt had the highest average taxable income at \$54,815 (44.7% higher than the average for the NT as a whole), largely as a result of mining activities in this area.

INCOME SUPPORT

Selected Centrelink income support benefits

In 2002-03 Central Region had the highest rate of persons receiving an Age Pension at 32.2 per 1,000 population, followed by Darwin SD and Environs (30.3). Darwin Region Balance recorded the highest rate of persons receiving Newstart Allowance (171.0 per 1,000 population), followed by the Katherine and East Arnhem regions with rates of 106.8 and 105.6 per 1,000 population respectively. Darwin Region Balance recorded the highest rate of persons receiving Parenting Payment Single (39.2 per 1,000 population), followed by the Katherine and Central Regions (32.6 and 31.2 per 1,000 population respectively). Darwin Region Balance also had the highest rate of persons receiving Youth Allowance (38.0 per 1,000 population), followed by Central Region and East Arnhem Region with 25.7 and 20.2 per 1,000 population respectively.

Selected Veterans' pensions

At June 2003 there were 1,254 pensioners in the NT receiving one or more of Disability, Veteran or Partner Service or War Widow(er) Pensions from the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Over three quarters of these pensioners resided in Darwin SD and Environs (78.9%), with Central Region (11.9%) and Katherine Region (5.3%) having the next highest proportions. Disability Pension was the most common form of payment (received by 789 pensioners in the NT) followed by Veteran Service Pension (312).

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY

TRAFFIC INFRINGEMENTS

In 2003 there were 40,085 traffic infringement notices issued by police in the NT, down 18.1% from 2002. Exceeding the speed limit remained the most common type of traffic infringement notice in the NT, accounting for 81.8% of all traffic infringement notices in 2003. This figure includes speed camera infringements which fall predominantly in Darwin SD and Environs and Central Region. By region, Darwin SD and Environs had the highest proportion of notices for exceeding the speed limit (85.9%) while Central Region had the highest proportion of notices for failing to comply with seatbelt laws (19.2%).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE APPLICATIONS

Domestic violence applications are the initiating document in a domestic violence matter. They can be lodged by individuals or by police. In 2003 there were 1,601 domestic violence applications lodged in the Magistrates Court, up 3.6% from 2002. Between 2002 and 2003 the number of applications lodged by individuals declined by 14.2% while the number of applications lodged by police increased by 45.5%. Domestic violence applications lodged by police outnumbered applications by individuals in three of the NT's six regions - Darwin Region Balance (75.0% of all applications), East Arnhem Region (66.1%) and Barkly Region (51.5%). In 2003 Barkly Region recorded the highest rate of domestic violence applications lodged per 10,000 population (228.9), which was nearly three times more than the NT total application rate (80.7). In contrast, East Arnhem Region and Darwin SD and Environs recorded the lowest application rates (44.4 and 64.8 respectively).

HEALTH

CAUSES OF DEATH

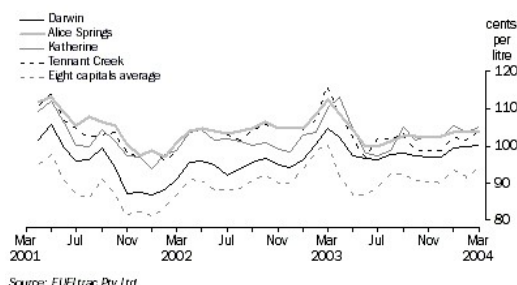
In 2002 the most prevalent causes of death in all regions of the NT were diseases of the circulatory system (including heart disease) and malignant neoplasms (cancer). Darwin SD and Environs had the highest prevalence of malignant neoplasms comprising 25.9% of the total deaths for that region while the East Arnhem Region had the lowest with 13.2%. Barkly Region had the highest prevalence of deaths due to diseases of the circulatory system at 32.7% while the East Arnhem Region and Darwin Region Balance had the lowest at 17.0% and 19.3% respectively. Diabetes mellitus accounted for about 8% of all deaths in the East Arnhem, Katherine, Barkly and Central Regions, more than double the proportion of deaths due to diabetes mellitus in Darwin SD and Environs (2.9%) and Darwin Region Balance (3.4%).

TRANSPORT

PETROL PRICES

During the three years to March 2004, changes in the average price of unleaded petrol in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek generally reflected changes in the eight capitals average, although their average prices remained considerably higher than the eight capitals average. At March 2004 the Darwin price was 5.9 cents higher than the eight capitals average price (100.2 and 94.3 cents per litre respectively).

Average Petrol Price (Unleaded), Selected Areas

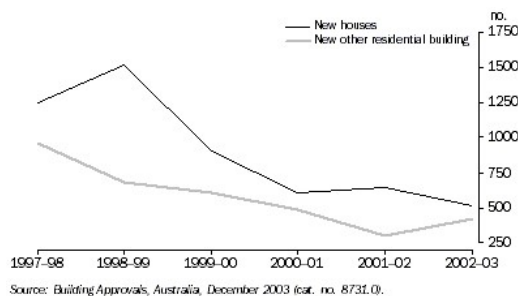


HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING APPROVALS

Building approvals data is an indicator of expected building activity. Between 2001-02 and 2002-03, approvals for new houses in the NT decreased by 20.1% (from 643 to 514). Darwin SD and Environs accounted for 63.2% of all new house approvals in 2002-03, down slightly from 63.6% of all new house approvals in 2001-02, while Central Region accounted for 15.2% of all new house approvals in 2002-03, up slightly from 14.6% in 2001-02. In contrast, approvals for new other residential building (e.g. units) increased by 41.3% between 2001-02 to 2002-03 (from 303 to 428). The vast majority of new other residential approvals in 2002-03 were in Darwin SD and Environs (84.1%), up from 75.9% of all new other residential approvals in 2001-02, followed by Central Region (11.4%), down from 20.5% in 2001-02.

New Residential Building Approvals



PUBLIC HOUSING

Of the 1,150 tenants allocated public housing in the NT during 2002-03, 56.6% had waited less than six months, 17.4% had waited six to 12 months, and 26.0% had waited more than a year. Applicants in Barkly Region and Darwin SD and Environs experienced the shortest wait times, with the majority of tenants having waited less than six months (74.5% and 61.1% respectively). In contrast, applicants in Central Region experienced the longest wait times, with almost half (49.2%) of the tenants having waited more than 12 months.

MINING AND ENERGY

MINERAL PRODUCTION

In 2002-03 all NT manganese, bauxite and alumina was produced in the East Arnhem Region where large mines are located at Groote Eylandt and Gove. The majority of gold and silver production occurred in the Central Region (88.4% and 61.6% respectively) and all zinc/lead concentrate and diamonds were produced in the Katherine Region from deposits at McArthur River and the Borroloola area. All uranium oxide production occurred in the Darwin Region Balance from deposits at Ranger, Jabiluka and Koongara. The production of nonmetallic minerals other than diamonds increased from 2.2m tonnes in 2001-02 to 2.6m tonnes in 2002-03, an increase mainly attributable to quarry operations in Katherine and Tennant Creek areas for supply of aggregate and rail ballast for the Darwin to Alice Springs railway.

TOURISM

VISITORS TO THE NT

Of the 1.7 million visitors to the NT in 2002-03, 44.8% visited the Top End, 43.3% visited the Central Region, 17.6% visited Katherine Region and 8.9% visited Barkly Region. On average, visitors stayed 7.0 nights in the Top End compared with 3.9 nights in the Central and Katherine Regions and 1.9 nights in Barkly Region. In the Top End 36.7% of visitors came from within the NT, 48.3% were from interstate and 15.0% were from overseas. Conversely, 43.9% of all visitors to the Central Region were from overseas, and only 19.2% were from within the NT. The Katherine and Barkly Regions both had high proportions of interstate visitors (46.8% and 58.9% respectively).

Visitors to the Top End accounted for 50.4% of all visitor expenditure, followed by visitors to the Central Region (37.5%) and Katherine Region (9.5%). On average, visitors to the Top End spent more per visitor night than visitors to the other regions.

NORTHERN TERRITORY ECONOMY

NORTHERN TERRITORY GROSS STATE PRODUCT

In 2002-03 the Northern Territory (NT) Gross State Product (GSP) (at current prices) was \$9,064m, an increase of 3.1% from the previous year. NT GSP contributed 1.2% to Australia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

In 2002-03 NT GSP (at current prices) was \$45,870 per capita, which was \$7,719 (20.2%) higher than Australia's GDP per capita. NT GSP per capita has been greater than the national average each year since the ABS began to produce GSP estimates (in 1989-90).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

In 2002-03 the Darwin City Council recorded the highest total revenue (\$47.4m) and the highest level of total expense (\$44.0m) of all seven municipalities in the NT. Grants were a significant component of total revenue for the smaller municipal councils with Tennant Creek Town Council and Litchfield Shire Council receiving 39.4% and 34.4% of their budgets from grants. In contrast the larger councils such as Darwin and Palmerston City Councils received 8.6% and 12.3% respectively of their budgets from grants. Similarly, grants were a major component of total revenue for the Community Government Councils (CGCs) and Incorporated Associations (IAs), comprising half (49.8%) of the budgets of all CGCs and IAs in the NT in 2002-03.

About this Release

ABOUT THIS RELEASE

In future data from this publication is expected to be available in the National Regional Profiles on the ABS website so this may be the final issue.

Contains ABS and other government agency data for Northern Territory regions and sub-regions, including information on population, employment, education and training, prices, income and expenditure, law and public safety, health, transport, housing and construction, agriculture and fisheries, mining and energy, tourism, imports and exports and government finance. Indigenous statistics are also included.

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